

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

AID-20 NIC-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01 OPR-02 DRC-01 SCCT-02 /158 W

----- 015562

O R 131100Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8081

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NDJAMENA 1538

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CD, CW

SUBJECT: CHAD SEVERS RELATIONS WITH FRG

REF: NDJAMENA 1517 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AFTER BEING INFORMED BY GERMAN AMBASSADOR THAT
DR. STAEWEN HAD BEEN EXCHANGED AFTER RANSOM PAYMENT TO
FROLINAT REBELS YESTERDAY AND THAT FRG HAD AGREED TO PUBLISH
FROLINAT MANIFESTO, TOMBALBAYE REGIME ANNOUNCED CHAD WAS
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BREAKING RELATIONS WITH FRG. FRG AMBASSADOR AND STAFF,

ORIGINALLY GIVEN TWELVE HOURS TO LEAVE CHAD, WERE ROUNDED UP BY GOC SECURITY DIRECTOR AND PUT ABOARD PLANE FOR PARIS AT 0315 HOURS TODAY, ONLY FIVE HOURS AFTER NOTIFICATION. FRENCH EMBASSY HAS INFORMALLY ASSUMED PROTECTING POWER ROLE OVER FRG INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PREDICTED REFTEL RANSOM PAYMENT FOR KIDNAPPED DR. STAEWEN WAS MADE MORNING OF JUNE 12 AT ZOUÏ VILLAGE NORTH OF BARDAI WHERE PREVIOUS RENDEZVOUS BETWEEN REBELS AND GERMAN NEGOTIATORS TOOK PLACE. CONTRARY TO ORIGINAL PLAN TO FLY STAEWEN TO N'DJAMENA AND EVACUATE HIM TO TUNIS IN GERMAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT, SPECIALLY EQUIPPED MERCEDES WAGON WITH EXTRA FUEL, TOOK STAEWEN AND FRG NEGOTIATOR WALLNER ACROSS FRONTIER INTO LIBYA. IN DIVERSIONARY TACTIC FRG MILITARY TRANSALL FLEW FROM BARDAI TO N'DJAMENA CARRYING PREFECT WHILE WALLNER ACCOMPLISHED MISSION. BEFORE FRG AMBASSADOR SELDIS OBTAINED AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE AT 2200 HOURS GOC HAD BECOME AWARE OF FRG ACTIONS. AFTER LISTENING TO FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF STAEWEN EXCHANGE PRESIDENT BRUSQUELY INFORMED SELDIS HE WOULD SHORTLY ANNOUNCE SEVERANCE OF RELATIONS WITH FRG AND ASKED SELDIS AND ENTIRE EMBASSY STAFF TO LEAVE ON SCHEDULED PARIS FLIGHT 1000 HOURS TODAY. REFUSED AMBASSADOR'S PLEA FOR FORTY-EIGHT DELAY. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS BUILDUP FOR IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT RADIO TCHAD BROADCAST STATEMENT 2315 HOURS ANNOUNCING BREAK IN RELATIONS. (AWAITING PUBLISHED TEXT.)

2. SHORTLY AFTER 0100 HOURS I HAD PHONE CALL FROM MRS. SELDIS WHO WISHED SAY GOODBYE TO MY WIFE AND ME, EXPLAINING SECURITY DIRECTOR HAD COME TO FRG RESIDENCE ABOUT 0015 HOURS TO ENFORCE CHANGED PRESIDENTIAL ORDER REQUIRING AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY STAFF AND DEPENDENTS TO LEAVE WITHIN ONE HOUR ABOARD DELAYED AIR AFRIQUE FLIGHT. SHE SAID FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOUZE (DEAN OF DIP. CORPS) WAS AT THEIR RESIDENCE. TEN MINUTES LATER SELDIS PHONED ME SAYING FRENCH HAD AGREED TO LOOK AFTER FRG PROPERTY TENTATIVELY BUT TOUZE HAD LEFT TO TRY TO INTERVENE WITH GOC FOR PROLONGATION OF EXPULSION ORDER. HE ASKED IF I WOULD COME TO HIS RESIDENCE 200 YARDS AWAY TO RECEIVE HIS KEYS AND KEEP THEM OVERNIGHT. INDICATED HE WAS BEING PRESSED BY POLICE TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

3. WHEN I REACHED FRG RESIDENCE CORTEGE WAS LEAVING FOR AIR-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PORT AND FRENCH COUNSELOR BALDIT HAD ARRIVED TO ACCEPT KEYS. AT BALDIT'S REQUEST I ENDEAVORED UNSUCCESSFULLY CONTACT TOUZE BY PHONE AND IN PERSON WHILE GERMANS STOPPED TO LOCK UP CHANCERY EN ROUTE TO AIRPORT. TOUZE WAS AT FRENCH CHANCERY MAKING EFFORTS TO REACH PRESIDENT THROUGH CLOSEST COLLABORATORS, BUT TOMBALBAYE REFUSED COME TO TELEPHONE. PLANE ULTIMATELY HELD UNTIL 0315 WHEN TOUZE AND I ACCOMPANIED BY OUR DCM'S AND WIVES WERE AT AIRPORT WHERE DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS WERE ORDERLY AND COURTEOUS AND

WHERE WE WERE ABLE TO TALK WITHOUT HINDRANCE FOR HALF HOUR.

4. AS RESULT OF TOUZE INTERVENTIONS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN MEAN-
WHILE OBTAINED TO EXTEND APPLICATION OF EXPULSION ORDER TO FOUR FRG
GUARDS UNTIL JUNE 15 AND TO GERMAN DCM FROM TRIPOLI, HERE ON
TDY, FOR ONE WEEK TO ACCOMPLISH MORE SYSTEMATIC WINDUP OF FRG
AFFAIRS. SELDIS BELIEVED ALL FRG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL
WOULD BE RECALLED BY END OF WEEK AND TOUCHED OTHER IMPLICATIONS
FOR CHAD WITH INEVITABLE WITHDRAWAL OF SUBSTANTIAL FRG DROUGHT
RELIEF PROGRAM, INCLUDING PROJECTED AIRLIFT.

5. LONG GOC STATEMENT ON RADIO INDICATED FRG PAID RANSOM OF
TWO HUNDRED MILLION CFA FRANCS (APPROX EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND
DOLLARS), AN ENORMOUS SUM IN IMPOVERISHED CHAD FOR ANYBODY AND
UNHEARD OF WEALTH FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE SMALL BAND OF NOT OVER
ONE HUNDRED TOUBOU TRIBESMEN. AMBASSADOR TOUZE TELLS ME RANSOM
DEMANDED FOR TWO REMAINING FRENCH HOSTAGES IS EVEN LARGER,
ALTHOUGH GOF HAS NO INTENTION TO PAY.

6. WILL TRANSMIT GIST OF GOC STATEMENT PROMPTLY WHEN RELEASED.
MULCAHY

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